

WINTER 2010

Accent

AN AVILA UNIVERSITY PUBLICATION

Jeanne Rau-Flattery '92

*"I think if you have the will,
you can accomplish most anything."*

Providing Access to *SUCCESS*



*Higher education
is a national priority:
our need for an educated
workforce is critical.*

Our country's economic condition has been in front of us for most of this fall, as it has been the main focus of the recent election season. We have participated in that discussion – and in the search for solutions – here on campus. Peter deSilva, CEO of UMB Bank, discussed the economic downturn and looked ahead to our nation's recovery during a recent presentation to our undergraduate and graduate business students. His remarks were insightful and thought-provoking, but the sentence that stuck with me most concerned where he would invest his money. "If I had only a dollar," deSilva said, "I would spend it all on education, as that is the one investment that will never lose value."

Higher education is a national priority: our need for an educated workforce is critical. While the United States once ranked first in the world in access to higher education, today we rank 11th and are falling. In the state of Missouri, the percentage of the population who have at least two years of college is almost 15 percent below the national average. This is of great concern: labor economists are forecasting that by 2018, at least 60 percent of jobs in the United States will require some level of post-high school education. Our nation's ability to remain competitive rests on our ability to educate and train workers who are adaptable, highly skilled, effective communicators and creative thinkers.

I'm pleased that Avila contributes in a significant way to this overall goal. We are adept at encouraging and supporting students who are the first in their families to attend college. This is important, not just because it helps our society as a whole, but because it is our mission to care for the "dear neighbor" through access to a high quality, values-centered education. For these Avila students, their education is the best opportunity for them to overcome poverty, improve their life prospects and contribute to the overall fiscal health of the state and our nation.

Our new marketing campaign incorporates our dedication to all our students. You may have noticed the television advertisements or heard a radio ad. The tagline "Opening Doors" indicates not just that we are a welcoming and nurturing environment for students of all ages and backgrounds. It describes the opportunity that an education provides to our alumni.

Enjoy this issue of the Accent. It showcases the excitement of campus this past fall and the accomplishments of our alumni. We're proud of them and eager to celebrate all that they have achieved.

Sharing your pride in Avila,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Slepitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA

Accent

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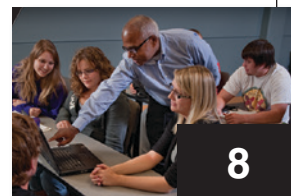
Jeanne Rau-Flattery '92 found the sky to be no limit at all with her Avila degree in hand.

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Avila contingent travels to Ecuador for interdisciplinary studies

A group of Avila students, professors and staff traveled to the center of the earth – well, more like center on the earth – for 10 days last May with the objective of gaining interdisciplinary perspective on social justice and intercultural sensitivity in a foreign land.

A total of 16 students, Avila faculty member Elaine Wright and adjunct religious studies faculty member S. Mary McGlone of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet spent 10 days near the Equator, in Ecuador, volunteering and working with two different organizations in two cities. During that time, they learned about the culture of the small, South American country and the roles social justice and intercultural sensitivity play among its less fortunate natives. Melinda Peterson, coordinator for Avila's Intensive Language and Culture Program, also accompanied the group, and David Armstrong, director of mission effectiveness and campus ministries, arrived for the second half of the voyage.

Upon arriving in Quito, Ecuador's capital city, on May 17, the Avila contingent traveled to Baños de Agua Santa, a small city nestled between mountain ranges in the central part of the country. While there, the students volunteered and observed at a non-profit foundation called FUVIRESE, The Foundation of Life, Reality and Service. It provides ser-

vices and support for disabled people in the region, and S. McGlone serves on the foundation's board of directors.

"Students were able to learn about the services at FUVIRESE," said Wright, assistant professor of social work. "(The students) did some gardening and cleaning, created pictures for coloring (for the FUVIRESE children) and organized supplies. It was a good experience."

In Quito, the Avila contingent stayed at the Working Boys' Center, which provides basic training and needs to at-risk youth and families.

When not working, the group traveled to the Center of the World Museum at the Equator, went on a tour of waterfalls, shopped in local markets and visited the Oswaldo Guayasamin Museum. Wright said they also visited local homes.

"There were nine people living in a room the size of my office, with a dirt floor and very few services," she said.

"It was really eye-opening for students. They got to see different experiences of society, from home visits to lunching at the Hilton.

"It was one of the best groups I've ever traveled with. They took care of each other, were eager to learn and wanted to make the most of the experience. I was really impressed with them." ■

McCalley accepts position of acting dean of School of Education

The roots of Sue McCalley's nearly two-decade love affair with Avila University trace back to a story that is far from feel-good.

When McCalley was hired by Avila as a professor in the School of Education back in the early 1990s, she originally thought it would be a short stop in her career – a year, maybe two at the most. Through her doctoral work at Kansas University, she developed a teacher therapist program and was putting that program to practical use in Kansas City, Kan. when she was severely injured by one of the boys with whom she was working. Eventually, she had to have two knee surgeries and both hips replaced.

"While I was healing, a position came open at Avila," McCalley said. "I told myself I'd be here a couple years and then go back to doing what I was doing before, working with children."

That was 17 years ago. Today, McCalley is leading the School of Education as the acting dean. She'll hold that position on an interim basis for the 2010-2011 academic year.

"I never thought I'd be here this long," she reiterated.

McCalley pointed to four primary reasons she's stayed with Avila. Utmost is the leadership of S. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, the university's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, whom McCalley said she greatly admires for her intellect, integrity and inspiration.

Second, McCalley said, is the faculty, both in the School of Education and Department of Psychology. Third, she said Avila attracts a different kind of student.

"I've taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and KU," she said. "There's just something different about an Avila student. They work hard and are just more serious and conscientious about their studies."

The fourth and final factor in McCalley's long-term love affair with Avila, she said, was the university's flexibility in allowing

its faculty to branch out into other endeavors.

"Avila allows you to accept all sorts of other opportunities at professional development," she said.

McCalley has traveled the world working with special education children but said the second half of this decade has been dedicated to sticking close to home to help Avila in gaining its Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education accreditation and starting a graduate program in literacy. She was named the university's Professor of the Year in 2008 and, that same year, earned the Medal of Honor.

This next year will keep her even closer to the university as she leads the School of Education to new horizons.

"We've started mapping our curriculum thanks to Andria Stokes," McCalley said. "There are several movements currently taking place in education, particularly opportunities with globalization. We want to develop several levels of partnerships in addition to what we already have. We also want to expand our role in the community."

"I'm really excited to be dean of this program."



Avila dean spends 10 “breathtaking” days on tour of Turkish culture and education

One word rolls off Charlene Gould’s tongue time and time again when describing a trip to Turkey she embarked upon with a group of fellow educators in June.

Breathtaking.

The sights, the sounds, landscapes, culture, history, people ... all fit that description perfectly while touring nine cities – on two continents – over 10 days. Gould, dean of Avila University’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, joined a delegation of educators from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and one professor from Arizona State on the trip, which was hosted by the Turkish Raindrop House, an organization headquartered in the Kansas City area which promotes understanding and cultural exchange between the U.S. and Turkey.

“The Raindrop Foundation had taken trips to Turkey in the past,” Gould said, “but this was tailored to educators. We were visiting universities, looking for partnership opportunities for students and faculties.”

Gould said Turkey has been in the midst of a movement – called the Gülen movement – for several years. The movement believes, “Through education, we can learn to live together,” she said. It’s

been a melding of private business and education for the betterment of society. And the results, Gould said, are tangible.

“You could see it,” she said. “The universities they’re building throughout the country ... they’re a testament to the businessmen’s commitment to education.

The pervading attitude, Gould said, is to make the new universities as progressive as possible. The language of business and technology is English, and so there is a great push for students to learn the English language.

“The people we met at the universities and in businesses all have great admiration for American higher education,” Gould said.

She said that, at the three major universities the contingent visited, the globe was the major icon at all of them.

“They want to look globally,” she said.

“By the end of the trip, I was extremely impressed with the universities, but also extremely impressed by the businesses sponsoring the universities. Business invests in education - not only universities, but colleges (which are like high schools in the U.S.) and elementary schools.”

Educational tours were just a portion of the trip, however.



Charlene Gould and her colleagues follow the dramatic footsteps left behind by influential figures from history



During the 10 days, the contingent also visited several sites of historical and cultural significance in the country, such as the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia, the Topkapi Palace, Cappadocia and Ephesus. Gould visited the legendary sacred pool of Abraham where, according to biblical scriptures, Abraham was thrown into the fire by Nimrod. God turned fire into water to protect Abraham. The pool is located on the grounds of the mosque of Halil-ur-Rahman. She also saw some religious artifacts that are housed in the Topkapi Palace such as the staff of Moses ("It was a lot smaller and thinner, more reed-like, than I thought," she said), the sword of David and Muhammad's soup bowl. She walked streets once walked by Antony and Cleopatra. She shopped at the Grand Bazaar, one of the oldest "malls" in the world.

While in Cappadocia, Gould said she spied a couple of Turkish women tatting lace on the side of a road. She connected that to a piece of Avila history and the Sisters of St. Joseph, who in the 17th century worked to support themselves and taught other women the trade of lace making.

Gould said she learned the most, however, when visiting and dining at the homes of some of her Turkish hosts, where they took the time to discuss at length the life, culture and educational system of the country.

It all was, in a word, "breathtaking."

"I just appreciated the opportunity to represent Avila and tour the country, not just historical sites, but also experience the cultural exchange opportunities," she said. "I hope we can continue with the Turkish Raindrop House for future exchanges. And, we're looking for ways to get students out of the classrooms and into the world." 🐾

Run-It for Brumit raises money for foundation

Close to 200 runners – most former classmates, friends and family of Emilie Brumit – converged at Avila University April 24 to honor a fallen friend and help raise funds for the foundation created in Brumit's name.

Brumit was a bright, "outspoken" 2008 political science major at Avila who died shortly after graduation, at 23, from a brain aneurysm. While at Avila, Brumit was a member of the Mock Trial Team and the Talon newspaper staff and spent much of her young life advocating for education.

"She wanted to be a professor, be a role model for kids," said close friend and fellow political science major Caitlin Stephenson.

Stephenson and two of Brumit's other close friends and Avila graduates – Emily Eagan and Courtney Biller – formed the Emilie Brumit Foundation as a means of raising money for an endowment at Avila and raise awareness of aneurysms. The foundation's first fundraising activity was to hold a five-kilometer run, the Run-It for Brumit, starting and finishing at Avila.

Stephenson said the run raised about \$3,000, a good start, she said.

"One thing that was cool was that we knew most everyone (at the run)," Stephenson said. "But we had one family who we didn't know. There were about 15 participants who had lost a family member to an aneurysm."

Stephenson said the foundation plans on hosting the second annual Run-It for Brumit next April. A golf tournament is also in the works. 🐾



Emilie Brumit

Run-It for Brumit participants (from left) included Aimee Morrison, Andi Russell, Jared Bustamante, Patrick Allegri, Karen Donnelly, Michael Powers, Caleb Lutz, Rachel Flaster, and Sheena Foye



Avila is up to the Challenge!

We're delighted to announce that we have met the fundraising goal set for us by the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and received the \$900,000 offered to us for meeting the challenge goal.

The challenge grant was offered in support of \$4.5 million in capital improvements and academic programs – some of which are already constructed or launched, and some of which will be developing over the next several months. Below is an overview of the components contained within this project and their impact on campus and our students:

1 • The Jeanne Hamilton Olofson Plaza:

Completed in 2008, this plaza, with flowing fountains and circular seating, offers a formal and informal gathering place for events and classes. It beautifully ushers prospective students, returning alumni, guests and staff onto the campus.

2 • Whitfield Center's Lobby: The offices for the School of Business have moved across the lobby to a new, modern space, and the lobby will be opened up and remodeled for use as a Student Commons. This will provide a comfortable place for campus residents, faculty and staff to gather for informal learning and offer evening students a place to transition from their work day to their classrooms. A coffee/sandwich shop will provide food service for those students – a welcome addition to the area!

3 • Monument Signage at our main entrances on Wornall Road: Scheduled to be installed in Spring of 2011, these markers at the north and south entrances of campus will transform our streetscape. Designed to complement the Jeanne Hamilton Olofson Plaza, they reflect the values of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet: modest in design

but with a strong foundation. The Avila name will be chiseled into cast stone.

4 • The Mabee Fieldhouse and Pavilion Expansion:

The original fieldhouse now boasts much needed upgrades, such as a new scoreboard to support competition on the Bill Waris Court. The pavilion expansion will begin construction in December 2010 and provide much needed relief to the Fieldhouse schedule, allowing space and court time for intra-mural sports as well as athletics/dance/cheer team practice and competition.

5 • O'Rielly Biology and Anatomy Lab Updates:

Remodels and updates to two of our primary laboratories in O'Rielly will increase Avila's ability to prepare students for careers in nursing, radiologic technology and other science and health care fields. Our biology and anatomy/physiology labs will now be state of the art, using current technology to teach health care as it is practiced in this increasingly complex environment.

6 • The Hartsook Institute for Fundraising:

This unique master's degree program provides a much-needed benefit to professionals who work in non-profit organizations. Fundraising is the lifeblood of these organizations, and students who earn their degree through the Institute emerge well prepared to serve the common good through stable and strategic efforts.

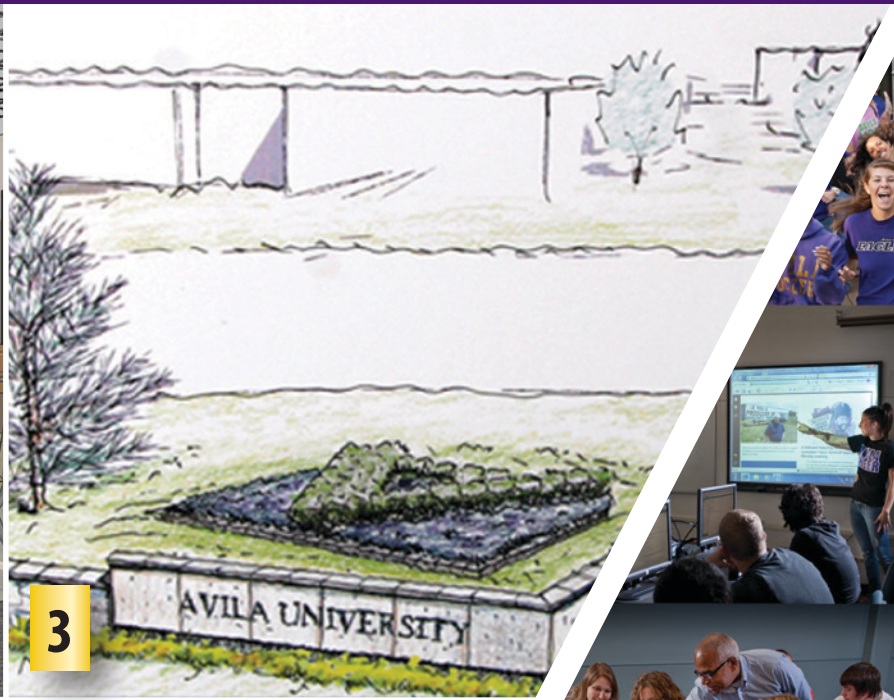
7 • Over \$750,000 in scholarship funds:

Little has as much impact on our students and their ability to pursue their education than financial aid. Through this project, Avila has provided crucial support to students who might not otherwise be able to afford their education.

Avila is extremely grateful to all our generous donors who helped us meet the Mabee Challenge and who are continually supportive of our students.

Thank you!





THE MABEE FOUNDATION *Challenge* 2010

WE DID IT!

Rooted in Faith

March 13,
2010

34th Annual Avila Steer Dinner

Avila University celebrated the 34th Annual Steer Dinner at the Sheraton Overland Park at the Convention Center. First held in 1977, the Steer Dinner is one of the longest-running charity auctions in Kansas City. The auction is the primary fundraiser for student scholarships at Avila and raised over \$300,000 that evening. More than 400 guests enjoyed a delicious “Steer” steak dinner, a lively auction courtesy of Shane Smith and dancing to the musical stylings of Four Fried Chickens and a Coke. 🍷



The Bob and Carol Miller family served as honorary chairs for the event.



Avila Students in costume to illustrate the fabulous live auction items



The décor emphasizes the theme “Rooted in Faith”



Dr. and Mrs. Ron Slepitz,
Avila University President,
take a moment to visit
with Mr. and Mrs. John
Massman



Fox 4's Mike Thompson
served as emcee
and kept the crowd
entertained and
engaged



Mrs. Ernie Straub III plays
"Heads and Tails" for a chance
to win a Meierotto's chocolate
pearl necklace and earrings



**The Most Reverend
Robert Finn,** Bishop
of the Diocese of
Kansas City-St.
Joseph, offered an
invocation to begin
the evening.



Avila students volunteered for the
evening and led guests on to the
dance floor to trip the light fantastic



**Guests enjoy shopping the
silent auction items**



Mr. and Mrs. David Frantze
enjoy visiting with friends



**The crowd capped the evening by dancing to
the sounds of Four Fried Chickens and a Coke**



Taking **FLIGHT**

Fate led Rau-Flattery to aviation ... but Avila also played a role.

Jeanne Rau-Flattery believes in fate. She has no qualms admitting that at least some steps in the path that led her to becoming owner and president of two prominent avionics companies in Lee's Summit, Mo. boiled down to sheer happenstance – right place at the right time and all that.

But a heavy dose of entrepreneurial spirit, along with strategic insight, business acumen and some plain old chutzpah, also played key roles in fast-tracking to the top of the company ladder. And, for that, Rau-Flattery largely credits two years attending Avila University.

A Kansas City native, Rau-Flattery began her career in higher education at Longview Community College before transferring to Avila, which she selected over a handful of other colleges/universities in the area.

"I just felt most welcomed at Avila," Rau-Flattery said. "Based on my situation, needing to work full-time and go to school ... Not only did Avila have a good reputation, but it was in a safe area where it felt safe to attend classes at night."

When Rau-Flattery hit the Avila campus in the fall of 1990, she thought of furthering her education in the sciences – chemistry or biology, she says. But a couple of meetings with Bob Gay, a finance professor at the university who would later become Rau-Flattery's faculty advisor, convinced Rau-Flattery that business was the path for her.

"I think Professor Gay was a big reason (I went into finance)," Rau-Flattery said. "I think he was more in tune with my learning style, a good fit. I'd always had a love of marketing."

Gay, who today is retired and living in Kansas City, said he recalls Rau-Flattery as a "good student" but realized his classes were just one component of a very busy life Rau-Flattery had mapped out for herself.

"Jeanne was pleasant and easy to deal with, both as a student and advisee," Gay said. "What was consistent with my dealings with her was that she was really on top of things – you have to be to manage a full class schedule and full-time work."

Rau-Flattery says her business courses at Avila offered a wide range of experiences, preparing her for a post-graduate career by instilling a sense of self-reliance.

"The instructors I had challenged you," she said. "They not so much told you what to do, but let you work through the problem yourself. Another class had us doing projects that always involved creativity."





Rau-Flattery graduated in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in finance.

While attending Avila, Rau-Flattery also worked a variety of jobs, each inevitably leading to the next – a video store, a business that sold trophies and silkscreened T-shirts and a company in the aerospace industry. That led her to taking a job after graduation with an aerospace company in Florida, but she missed home and family and returned to the Kansas City area.

Soon after her return home, Rau-Flattery received a phone call from an auctioneer in Missouri. The aerospace company for which she'd worked in Missouri had gone out of business and was having its inventory auctioned, and the auctioneer needed information about the equipment. It was through that auctioneer that Rau-Flattery would meet George Bunting, an entrepreneur from Kansas City who used to be in the oil and gas business and a man who would become a mentor and her eventual business partner.

Also around that time, a friend took her to an open house at the TWA maintenance facility in Kansas City, a little day trip that completely opened her eyes to a career in aerospace.

"That was the hook," she said. "It was interesting for me to see a part on a plane that I'd seen on a shelf."

Rau-Flattery was hired as a consultant to assist an auction in Kansas City when fate once again came calling. A blizzard hit the area that day, limiting attendance to the auction to just a few bidders. At the end of the day, Bunting, who was attending the auction, and Rau-Flattery bought two-thirds of the equipment themselves.

"George asked, 'Are we ready to set up shop?'" Rau-Flattery said. "I said OK and just sort of went along for the ride."

"I think, if you have the will, you can accomplish most anything."

In 1993, the two opened Aero Express. At first, the company focused on selling after-market airplane parts, but later morphed into buying, selling, renting and trading avionics test equipment.

Bunting, now 68, semi-retired and living in Midland, Texas, says Rau-Flattery's qualities made it an easy decision to make her his business partner.

"I went to her because of her knowledge," Bunting said. "She had prior knowledge of that industry, had worked in that environment. She's quick, smart and able to deal



with a lot at the same time.

"She's very mature and focused. Anything she's got, she's earned. She's been an excellent business partner."

Rau-Flattery launched another business in 1997 with a new business partner, Dan Rafferty. She is acting chief executive officer at Millennium International, which specializes in the maintenance and repair of avionics in different market segments.

It's through this type of diversification – for instance, servicing military aircraft in addition to those in the private sector - that Rau-Flattery says her companies have been able to successfully weather shifting economies.

"We've steadily grown year after year," she said. "We constantly look for the best path. Often, our customers tell us what that path is. We don't assume what the customer wants. We're always looking for new ways to serve our customers, always moving with the customer base."

Outside the office, Rau-Flattery is equally busy. She and her husband, Gery (who owns the building that houses Aero Express and Millennium International) are raising two young sons, Colin, 7, and Logan, 4 and stay close with Gery's grown daughter, Carol Ann, her husband and son Kory, 6.

She also keeps active with various trade associations and sits on the board of directors of the Aircraft Electronics Association and Air Carriers Purchasing Conference, which she will chair for its annual convention this year in Detroit.

Rau-Flattery said a regret of her Avila years is that, working full-time while in school, she didn't have the opportunity to experience more in the way of campus life. She re-connected with the university somewhat a year or so ago when she met Avila President Ron Slepitz at a meeting of one of the CEO associations in which she belongs and toured the campus for the first time since she graduated.

"Right now, I'm heavily involved in the associations connected to my businesses," she said. "But when I finish with those responsibilities, I would love to get more involved with Avila and help in any way I can." 📞

Editor's Note: Avila wishes to thank Air Charter at the Lee's Summit airport for providing the location and equipment used in photos for this story.

Perry a “good match” for Avila’s men’s basketball program



When Anthony Hall made his decision to move down the hall to the athletic director's office, he knew he wouldn't have to look far to find his replacement as Avila University's men's basketball coach. After conversations too numerous to count leading up to the decision, Hall said he knew his assistant coach last season, Rodney Perry, was the man for the job.

"I'd known Rodney from the past," said Hall, who had led the men's basketball team the past six seasons. "I just liked how he handled himself. One thing I really liked was his connections with kids. His current players respect him tremendously. And, we need to become more local-based with our recruiting."

Perry's background and wealth of experience, both as a player and coach, suggest he's more than capable of leading the Eagles to success. He's certainly no stranger to successful basketball programs.

After playing for two seasons at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith under current Nebraska coach Doc Sadler, Perry transferred to what was then Southwest Missouri State (now Missouri State), where he played under legendary coach Charlie Spoonhour. In his first season, the Bears finished 23-8, won its first and only Missouri Valley Conference post-season tournament and reached the NCAA tournament, reaching the Elite Eight. The next season, Perry helped lead his team to a 20-11 and a berth in the NIT tournament. He was a two-time member of the Missouri Valley's all-defensive team and led the Bears in steals both seasons.

Perry has coached at all levels, from AAU to NCAA Division I and professional basketball. He was an assistant at Duquesne University to former Nebraska head coach Danny Nee and also served as an assistant at Western Illinois University, helping the Fighting Leathernecks to their best record in 10 years. He also was head coach of the Kansas City Stars of the professional American Basketball Association before taking the position as assistant coach at Avila last season.

Perry, 40, said he thinks all of those experiences have prepared him well for the challenges of his first collegiate head coaching position.

"I feel very prepared, maybe over-prepared in some cases," Perry said. "I've had opportunities to coach at a lot of different levels. I know what works and what doesn't. I've done most everything, from top to bottom."

In playing for the more laid back Spoonhour at Southwest Missouri State, Perry said he learned the value of being a "player's coach," that using a soft-handed approach can be more beneficial than ruling with an iron fist. Serving as an assistant under Nee, however, taught Perry that stern discipline also has its place.

Perry agrees with Hall that he needs to focus recruiting more on high school players in and around the Kansas City area. 🐼



Avila baseball team makes history by qualifying for NAIA national tournament

The Avila University baseball team made history by winning the Heart of America Athletic Conference post-season tournament and qualifying for the NAIA national tournament.

It marks the first time in the program's history that the Eagles have qualified for the national tournament.

What's perhaps most remarkable, however, is how the Eagles won.

Their prospects weren't looking good after falling in lopsided fashion in the opening game to Missouri Valley, 15-4, at Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph. That meant the Eagles would have to fight their way back out of the losers bracket to win. And fight they did! Dramatic victories over William Jewell (3-2) and Evangel (14-12 after a dramatic three-run home run by Tim Matson late in the game) advanced the Eagles to the final against Lindenwood. Because Lindenwood reached the final without a loss, it meant Avila would have to defeat the Lions twice, in back-to-back games, to win the championship.

In the first game, the Eagles scored five runs in the first two innings and never looked back in a 5-3 victory. The Eagles' pitching staff held the Lions to just five hits. In the second game, Avila took early leads of 5-0 after three innings and 7-2 after five. Lindenwood roared back with a run in the seventh and four in the eighth, tying the score at 7-7. However, the Eagles loaded the bases in the bottom of the eighth after a single and two hit batters and then scored what would be the winning run on a passed ball.

The conference tournament title was, against all odds, theirs.

"The guys really showed a lot of intestinal fortitude, especially having to go through William Jewell and then Lindenwood twice," said Avila baseball coach Ryan Howard. "I still can't believe how it happened. But they've been cardiac kids like that before." 🐼

Avila Homecoming

2010

AHOY, AVILA



The adrenaline for Homecoming weekend starts pumping in the Mabee Fieldhouse Friday night



Students toss rings, hoping to win prizes during Friday's Eagle Madness



Homecoming Queen Shawna Downing and King Nick Nichols share a royal moment with Dom the Eagle



The fans go wild!



Guests enjoy Jack Stack BBQ at the football tailgate party



The Eagles fought hard against Benedictine Ravens



You never know who you'll be sitting next to at an Avila football game!



Carol Jean DeFeo '68 and her guests pose after Carol received her Outstanding Alumni Award





Alumni awards presented at Homecoming

On the numerically nifty date of 10/10/10, The Alumni Association honored nine alumni who have made contributions to their communities, their industries and their alma mater. Two of our award winners were unable to be with us at the ceremony, but their awards were presented to them individually. 🏆

Award Recipients

Left: (In order left to right) Helen J. Wald, '46; Mildred B. Bever, '86; Carol Jean DeFeo, '68; Melissa A. Villanueva, '00; Kathleen A. Roy, '90; Debra A. Foster-Payne, '00, '06; Vicki S. Conn, Ph.D., FAAN, '75

Top Right: Matthew Gifford, '99 accepted his award from Bob Powell, Ph.D. in the British Virgin Islands, while conducting a long-range mark-recapture study of Puerto Rican ground lizards to evaluate growth, survivorship, and performance on a private island that has not been ravaged by development.

Bottom Right: Lori Tupper, '82 received her award surrounded by her family as they gathered for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Escape to
Alaska

Alaskan Frontiers & Glaciers: Vancouver to Vancouver June 7 – 17, 2011

Embrace Alaska's rugged beauty while cruising on the elegant Oceania Cruises' Regatta. Sail the Inside Passage to the magnificent Hubbard Glacier, stopping in the charming Alaskan ports of Sitka, Icy Strait Point, Kodiak, Wrangell, and Ketchikan. 🏆

For more detailed information regarding the trip, please visit avila.edu/alumni or e-mail advancement@avila.edu

Class of '71 hits the big 4-0

Avila's Class of 1971 is planning on holding a 40-year class reunion and wants to get as many people back to Kansas City during the University's 2011 Homecoming celebration next October. Please contact Patty Scherer Lawhorn, at patlawhorn@gmail.com, or Barbara Walsh Bouchey at bbbouch@swbell.net for more information.



No Scrooge for this Ebenezer

Avila alumni find all kinds of ways to spend time after graduation. But 2004 graduate Shirley Phillips discovered an interest more unique than most.

About a year ago, Phillips was driving to her job as an account manager in Overland Park, Kan. when she noticed standing in an adjacent field a donkey that appeared dangerously thin. Phillips, who lives in Grandview, Mo., began dropping off food – typically a steady diet of apples and carrots – daily in an effort to nurse the animal back to health.

Phillips later met the donkey's owner, Ben Alvarado, and learned the name of her new friend – Ebenezer. She also learned that Ebenezer was 30 years old and in need of veterinary care. She helped raise money – between \$1,200 and \$1,700 – to help fight the white line disease Ebenezer was suffering from in all four hooves as well as some needed dental work.

Today, Ebenezer is now 31 (the life span of a donkey can range anywhere from 30-50 years) and doing much better, thanks to friends like Phillips. She said she and her husband still stop by the pasture twice a day to feed Ebenezer and then go back at night to walk him to his stall.

"His only problem is that he has cataracts and can't see very well," Phillips said. "But, other than that, he's doing great." 🐾

January 6

Thirsty Thursday Happy Hour

5 – 7 p.m., Paddy O'Quigleys, 11851 Roe Ave, Leawood, Kan.
Join fellow alumni for some appetizers on us and time to relax, meet other alums and reconnect with old friends.

January 28

Alumni and Campus Ministry Ski Night at Snow Creek, Weston, Mo.

7 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Join students and alumni as we ski or snowboard at a discounted price.

February 5

Alumni Day in the Fieldhouse

Preregistered Alumni get free admission to the games and free appetizers and beverages in our hospitality suite. Watch Eagles, present and past, take flight on the court.

February 28

Alumni Association Committee Meeting

6 p.m. in the Barefoot Room.

March 3

Thirsty Thursday Happy Hour

5 – 7 p.m.
Location coming soon! Watch our Facebook page or check the alumni website at avila.edu/alumni



Alumni Getaway!
April 1, 2011

Bring your family and join your fellow Avila alumni for a weekend getaway at the Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City, KS. Avila's reduced room rate is \$149 per night for a family suite. Four waterpark passes are included with each room.

Waterpark passes can be picked up at 1 p.m. and room check-in is at 4 p.m. Join the Alumni Association for a get together at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening in the Northwest Territory A and B rooms for family fun and gifts.

To make your reservations, call Great Wolf Lodge at 1-866-944-WOLF and identify yourself with reservation #1104AVIL.

ROOMS SELL OUT QUICKLY, SO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

Call or e-mail Susan Randolph with questions at (816) 501-3780 or Susan.Randolph@avila.edu.



Great Wolf Lodge event slides into its fourth year

April 23, 2010 was a great day for slips, slides, splashes and sundaes at the Great Wolf Lodge! Alumni and their families gathered for an ice cream social on Friday evening, then had the whole day Saturday to play in the water park. Rooms were offered at a discounted rate to Avila grads, giving everyone the opportunity for family fun for less.

Join us at the Lodge next year on April 1, 2011! See the ad on page 21 for reservation details. As this event always books quickly, call today! 🐾

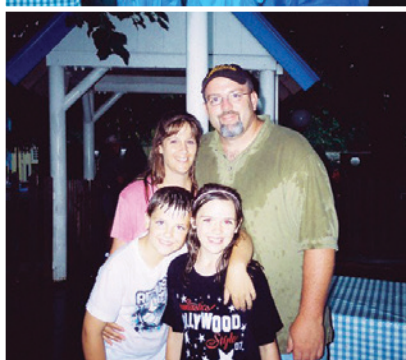
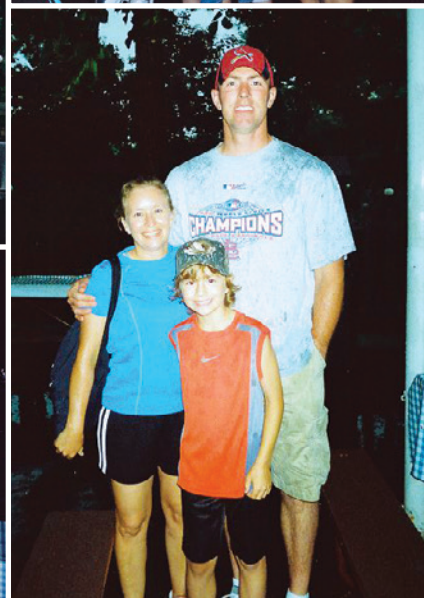


New grads get glad!

To welcome the new 2010 graduates into the Alumni Association, we held our second annual Alumni at Last Bash in the Mabee Fieldhouse immediately following graduation practice. 280+ graduates received free t-shirts, posed for pictures with Dom the Eagle, enjoyed appetizers and one another's company. Members of the Alumni Association board were on hand to pass out the shirts and to extend well wishes to the newest members of the Association. 🦅

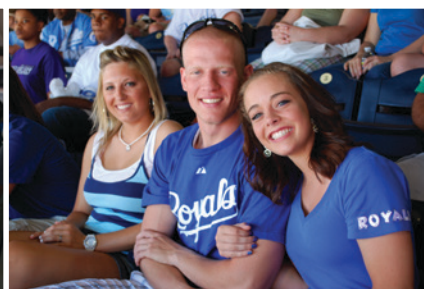
A wet and wild time at Worlds of Fun

It was a soggy day, but alumni still came out to play! On Saturday, June 12 alumni and their families braved the stormy weather to attend the second annual Alumni Day at Worlds of Fun. They came together for an all-you-can-eat picnic to fuel up for the day, then had until mid-night to ride rides, take in the shows and enjoy all the park has to offer. Despite the drips, everyone enjoyed the discounted tickets! 🌧️



Purple Day at the K

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon on June 6 when the Alumni Association took in the Royals v. Tigers. In addition to the great weather, we were rewarded when the Royals won the game 7-2. Each ticket had \$15 loaded on for purchasing food, beverages or merchandise, so no one went away hungry. Some of our younger guests had the opportunity to meet "Royalman" and pose for pictures with him. It was a great day at the K! 📣



'61 Barbi Field Meyer recently visited her daughter and family in Madrid, Spain. While there, she also visited Avila, Spain and spent the day enjoying the charm of the medieval, walled city.

'63 Joyce Loehner Adriance is retired and living in Napa, Calif. She has been very involved with the local Napa AAUW and has spent two years researching cyberbullying. She gives presentations to schools, service organizations and businesses and has partnered with Symantec Corporation and the Anti-Defamation League. "I feel like I'm working full-time, but it is very rewarding," she said.

'64 Pam Puester Runner has retired from her job as a teacher/librarian and is living in Casa Grande, Ariz. and is enjoying overseas travel, with trips to Africa, Spain, Eastern Europe, Ireland, China, Australia and New Zealand. This fall, she was looking forward to visiting Machu Picchu and several other South American cities. Her newest interest is duplicate bridge.

'67 Nancy Weneck, who received her bachelor of arts in education, is teaching at JCCC Floral Design in the Interior Design Department.

'70 Julie Owen Schap performed on piano with violinist Wen Yih Yu as Duo a Piacere for the Rhodes College fall faculty recital on Sept. 30,

2010 in Memphis. The duo performs chamber concerts in private homes, for benefits and fundraisers and for companies. Schap is vice president, financial advisor at Merrill Lynch and lives in Memphis.

'71 Barb Walsh Bouchey is living in an 11th-floor condo in downtown St. Louis and loving retired life. In addition to travel and time with family and friends, Bouchey has taken up genealogy of her family from Ireland.

'72 Kathy Riggs Noll retired from the Navy Nurse Corps as a Commander after 22 years of service. She currently is a health educator at Kaiser Permanente and resides in Littleton, Colo. with her husband and two children, Jeff and Lauren.

'76 Diane Novak Gardner was elected president of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association-Florida Chapter. She is chair of the nursing department at the University of West Florida, Pensacola.

'76 Jim Arthur celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary July 5, 2010, with a weekend in San Luis Obispo, Calif. and Pismo Beach. Arthur, a program technician for the State of California, resides in Fresno.

'76 Jeanne Steffens Lichty is a research nurse at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, working in the Phase

I Target Therapy clinical trials for all cancer types. She lives in the River Oaks area of Houston.

'76 Ruth Juarez Jones of Glasgow, Mo. recently was elected to be treasurer of the Missouri League of Nursing.

'78 Lorie Zahner has been a registered nurse with the State of Hawaii Department of Health in Kalaupapa, Hawaii, but soon will return to the mainland for the first time in 31 years to live and work in Colorado. She also accompanied 11 surviving patients to Belgium and Rome to attend the canonization of Saint Damien of Molokai, who gave his life in the care of Hansen's Disease patients who lived in Kalaupapa. She celebrated her birthday the same day as the canonization in Rome.

'79 Meg Nelson Warren has recently given up her ranch in Idaho to move to Italy where her husband works in support of the U.S. Air Force.

'79 Elizabeth Cress Sweet recently stepped down after nearly nine years of contributing to the board of directors for the Human Relations, Culture and Arts Promotion Commission. "Leaving a board is both a sad moment and a happy one," Sweet, a resident of Gilbert, Ariz., told the Gilbert News. "I believe I have been a good advocate for the arts."

'80 Shelly Clements Hill is a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and recently mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Landstuhl, Germany to serve as staff CRNA in the operating room, providing care to American and NATO troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Hill resides in Parkville, Mo.

'80 Linda Werner is a supply chain coordinator at Pfizer Inc. She is a project manager for clinical supplies. She currently lives in Preston, Conn.

'81 Theresa Reigelsberger Davis retired from her position as vice president for advancement at Central Methodist University, Fayette, Mo., on May 31, 2010. She was with Central Methodist for about 14 years, holding several positions in the alumni and advancement offices during her tenure. She now lives with her husband, Dick, in Mendon, Mo., where she is enjoying spending more time with grandchildren and other family members in addition to enjoying gardening and other hobbies.

'81 Nancy Ruark Smith has opened her own consulting firm, Legal Tech Straight Talk. The firm is geared to help legal tech providers maximize lead generation programs, jump start their marketing efforts and achieve marketing goals. She has 20-plus years of

experience in event planning for law firms and solution providers for groups as small as 10 and as large as 3,000. She resides in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., but serves clients nationwide.

'82 Mary Langsdorf is president and on the board of directors of the Orange County, Calif. Women's Chorus. She received her bachelor's degree in accounting at Avila.

'83 Margie Jo Williamson Bidwell retired from the military after 22 years of service, including a 16-month deployment to Iraq, and currently works as a social service clinician for the State of Kentucky. She and her husband reside in Alexandria, Ky.

'84 Josetta Wahwassuck, after raising three now-grown children as a single mother, is engaged to be married to James Young Jr.

'84 Ibraheem Badejo was appointed as a research fellow at Ethicon Inc., a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary, in February. As a research fellow, he is responsible for external innovation for Ethicon Biosurgery. In his professional career, he has been awarded 22 U.S. patents and many international patents. He also performs mission trips and has traveled to Trinidad, Kenya and Haiti over the past few years. He currently resides in Raleigh, N.C.

'86 Jessica Davidson and husband Nick celebrated the birth of a daughter, Braelynn Mackensi, Feb. 22, 2010.

'86 Ginger Coldsnow Brooks was promoted to director of strategic marketing initiatives for the Nestlé Walmart team. She resides in Lowell, Ark.

'91 Jason Porter recently started a new position working in sales and marketing with Aegis Communications in Joplin, Mo. He resides in Carl Junction, Mo.

'95 Luana Cumpton Paulsen moved to Lenexa, Ks. and got married in 2009 and is obtaining a Master's in Social Welfare Administration, Advocacy and Policy at Kansas University. She is a marketing and IT manager at The Energy Savings Store.

'95 Chris Huntington is a scientist at AstraZeneca, living in the Boston area with his two children, Simon and Luna, and loving the East Coast beaches.

'95 Kelly White Wempe earned a master's in business administration from Quincy University in Quincy, Ill. in 2001 and moved to Fayetteville, Ark. where she teaches business classes full-time at Northwest Arkansas Community College.



'96 Maria Swindell Gus and her husband recently had their first child, a baby boy named Noah, in May, 2010. The family lives in Bartlesville, Okla., and Gus said she's looking forward to bringing her family to Kansas City to visit Avila and see the auditorium chair she donated several years ago during the renovation of Goppert Theatre. Gus is executive director of the Bartlesville Convention & Visitors Bureau.

'98 Rachael Cooper-Zimmerman has been married to husband Ed since 2001 and had son Cooper in October of 2009. She has been working as a social worker at St. Joseph Medical Center for seven years.

'98 Kate Egan has joined the first national tour of DreamWorks Theatricals' Shrek The Musical as assistant company manager. In the past, she has managed tours of *Gypsy*, *The Pajama Game* and *Avenue Q*. She said she is looking forward to returning to Kansas City when the tour hits the Music Hall in January.

'99 Julie Klutsarits Jasper became principal at St. Pius X High School in Kansas City, Mo. effective July 1, 2010.

'00 Jon Paine was married May 22, 2010 to Laura Thiessen in Lenexa, Ks. Paine is a property claims supervisor for Farmers Insurance.

'00 Rossana Vallazza Kistler and her family are living in Naples, Italy. Daughter Maria Celeste was born in Japan in 2005 and son Lance was born in Virginia in 2007. Husband, CDR Lawrence Kistler is stationed in the Naples region, where the entire family is enjoying the wine, traveling and food.

'01 Jewel Ganaway has retired and does ESL work for a local community college. She received her master of arts in education at Avila.

'02 Liz Donnelly received a Master's in Theology with a special emphasis in spiritual direction from Holos University Graduate Seminary in October, 2009. She also was ordained in the All Faiths Church of Spirituality and Health. She also works as an education coordinator at Truman Medical Center. She resides in Kansas City, Mo.

'02 Angie Meador Chamberlain and her husband welcomed a baby boy, William Scott Chamberlain, on May 14, 2010. It was the couple's first child. Angie currently works

as a network administrator for Technology Solutions and resides in Peculiar, Mo.

'02 Elizabeth Keehart Kennon was awarded a Master's of Business Administration – Healthcare Administration, with high honors, in February from South University in Savannah, Ga. She currently is a radiologic technologist at Fitzgibbon Hospital and resides in Miami, Mo.

'03 Crystal Gardner married Lerron Turner on July 31, 2010. Gardner is a community support specialist for Swope Health Services in Kansas City, Mo.

'03 Tim Greenwell recently was named assistant principal of Degan Elementary School in the Lewisville Independent School District in Texas. Greenwell, who received his Master's in education at Avila, continues to reside in Dallas.

'03 Rhianna Hatfield Thomas and husband Chris welcomed a baby girl, Melva Rose, on May 6, 2010. Rhianna is education coordinator at Asbury Children's Center.



'03 Jamie Young and her husband, Andy, welcomed the birth of a baby girl, Lucy Gregory Young, on July 27, 2010. Lucy was born at 7:37 a.m. and weighed 8 lbs., 2 oz. and was 18.5 inches in length.

'03 Katherine Williams is a nurse manager in the infectious disease clinic at Children's Mercy Hospital. Williams, who received her bachelor of science in nursing at Avila, is married and has three children.

'04 Becky Heide teaches outdoor education to students in the Denver public school system. The Balarat Outdoor Education Center facilitates hands-on learning in the outdoors, covering ecology, geology and history. She facilitates individual and group challenges such as snow shoeing, rock climbing, hiking and challenge courses.

'05 Christy Parker Bean began working in March 2010 as an assessment coordinator at Baker University in Baldwin City, Ks.

'05 Janelle Schuler Harper married husband Chris in November, 2009, and reside in Meriden, Kan. with their three-year-old chocolate lab Boston. She works as an aftercare specialist at TFI Family Services, a child welfare agency, in Topeka.

'06 Jamie Blake Driskell is an administrative assistant at Alliant Techsystems Inc. and resides in Kansas City, Mo.

'07 Johnny E. Turnage III has recently begun work at Louisburg College in Louisburg, N.C. as a residence hall mentor for Hillman-Morris Hall and serves as the student government advisor.

'08 Stephanie Lawrence Sullivan and her husband **Tom Sullivan** (AU class of '06) are serving in the Peace Corps in Mongolia. They will work there for two years teaching English to Mongolian school children. The two reside in Peculiar, Mo.

'08 Joe Mentzer and wife Sarah are expecting their first child in March 2011. He will be completing his Master of Arts in teaching from Pittsburg State in December 2010. He'll then be certified to teach social studies for 7-12 grades.



'08 Kara Owens Bosler and husband, Tim, welcomed their second child, Jacob Owen, on June 3, 2010. Bosler is recruitment coordinator at Bright Horizons. She resides in Belton, Mo.

'09 Jon Dunn is creative director and partner in his own company, 2A Marketing, a graphics design firm located in Blue Springs, Mo.

'09 Shelly Souders accepted a teaching position with the DeSoto, Kan. School District as an art teacher for Mize Elementary beginning this fall.

Submit your news for publication in *Accent*. Let us know when you get a new job or promotion, get engaged or married, have babies, retire or take a fabulous vacation. You also can send photos! Return this form or update your information online at www.avila.edu/alumni/update.asp

Name: _____ Maiden: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ News: _____



Avila mourns the passing of two dear friends

Dorothy Ann Whitfield

Former Avila Trustee Dorothy Ann Whitfield, passed away at her home in Tucson, Ariz. on Saturday, July 10, 2010.

After attending Trenton Missouri Junior College, Dorothy obtained a degree in 1955 in chemistry from the College of St. Teresa (now Avila University) in Kansas City, Mo.

After a career as a medical technologist, she became a successful entrepreneur and the owner of C&I Products, a distributor of medical and clinical supplies. She served Avila University as a Trustee from 1982 to 1997 and generously supported the construction of the Whitfield Center on Avila's campus. She remained dedicated to her alma mater, the students and staff, particularly Sister Olive Louise Dallavis, CSJ, President Emerita of Avila, throughout her life.

She retired in 1985, and then moved to Tucson, Ariz. in 1999.

Bob Miller

Our friend and neighbor Robert E. Miller died on Aug. 1, 2010, surrounded by his family at his home.

Bob, Carol and their family are well known throughout the Kansas City community for their dedication to service: Bob's generous spirit and endless energy benefited Avila as well as Ozanam, Marillac Center for Children, Lalmba, Water Partners International and many others. His great love for the Catholic church, and the priesthood and religious life prompted him to organize an annual golf tournament (as a priest appreciation event) and "Blisters for Sisters," a walk to raise funds in support of women religious.

Avila proudly honored the Miller family at the 2010 Steer Dinner as exemplars of family life – and of the sacrifices that so many families make to offer their children an Avila education.

We mourn the passing of both of our good friends and pray for the peaceful repose of their souls.



'39 Catherine L. Dougherty passed away June 8, 2010. Catherine received her associate of arts in general studies from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

'49 Mary Therese Kennedy passed away Jan. 7, 2010. She received her bachelor's in nursing from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

'51 Patricia Jansen Doyle passed away Jan. 18, 2010. Patricia attended Avila in 1951.

'54 Carmeline R. Chirveno passed away Jan. 4, 2010. Carmeline earned her bachelor of arts in education from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

'54 Betty Carol Broski passed away Oct. 1, 2010. She earned her bachelor's in elementary education from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila.

'57 Patricia Ann Donnelly Stanek passed away Oct. 31, 2010. She received her bachelor of arts in education from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila.

'62 Judith Ann Hall passed away Jan. 6, 2010. Judith received her bachelor of arts in history from Avila.

'63 Julia Elizabeth Baysinger passed away on March 29, 2010. Julia received her bachelor's in education from Avila College, now Avila University.

'64 Judith Lee Moore passed away on Aug. 31, 2010. Judith graduated from Avila College with a degree in theatre arts.

'70 Karen R. Worth passed away Nov. 8, 2010. She received her bachelor of arts in economics from Avila.

'72 Sharon Felice Murphy passed away on Jan. 29, 2010. Sharon received her bachelor of arts in special education from Avila.

'77 Charles Michael Heptas passed away Jan. 31, 2010. Charles received his bachelor of arts in administration of justice from Avila.

'77 Mary Kathryn Hunt passed away Jan. 29, 2010. Mary received her bachelor of arts in psychology from Avila.

'78 David Parmenter passed away Oct. 28, 2010. David received his bachelor of arts in international business from Avila.

'79 Hazel Marie Gauert passed away Jan. 20, 2010. Hazel received her bachelor of arts in accounting from Avila.

'82 Hedwig Josephine Pullman passed away April 3, 2010. She earned her bachelor's in social work from Avila.

'82 Alge Ture Peterson III passed away Sept. 28, 2010. He graduated from Avila University with a bachelor's in business with an emphasis in accounting.

'87 Michael Joseph Dickerson passed away Nov. 18, 2010. He graduated from Avila University with a bachelor of science in business.

'03 Daniel Robert Goldstein passed away in Aug. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Avila University.

'06 Krista Marie Turner passed away March 28, 2010. Krista received her certificate in the arts from Avila. She earned a master of arts in education in 2008.

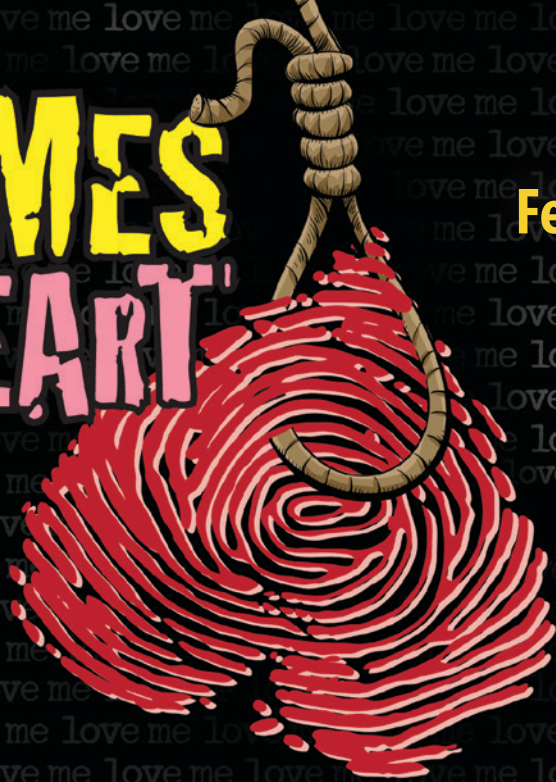
Friends of Avila University

Julia M. Boutross passed away July 20, 2010.

J. Bernard Finucane passed away April 20, 2010.

John Latshaw passed away July 18, 2010.

CRIMES OF THE HEART



by **Beth Henley**

February 24–26 at 8:00 p.m.

February 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

FORGIVE ME



Music: John Kander; Lyrics: Fred Ebb;

Book: Fred Ebb, Bob Fosse

Based on the play CHICAGO by Maurine Dallas Watkins

April 28–30 at 8:00 p.m.

May 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

CHICAGO

THE MUSICAL

G O P P E R T — T H E A T R E



AVILA UNIVERSITY
Opening Doors

Call 816-501-3699 or visit www.avila.edu for tickets

Sign-language interpreter for the hearing impaired will be available at Friday night's performance.

11901 WORNALL ROAD • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



"Why we decided to include Avila in plans: how important Avila is to the community."

~ Jim Wilcox

Building the Future

Jim and Ruth Wilcox

Avila Heritage

James C. Willcox, former trustee of Avila University, has provided wise leadership to Avila. He served on the board for more than 10 years, as chair from 2000–2005 and as Avila University's interim president in 2006.

"As a trustee, Jim brought his business acumen to the university and the board. More importantly, he brought his skill in working with others and engaging them in Avila's mission, especially as he served as interim president. The university benefited greatly not only from this service and leadership but also from the manner in which it was offered," said Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., Avila University president.

Jim and his wife, Ruth, have shown loyalty and commitment to the university spanning several decades. As kind and faithful donors to Avila, they have included Avila in their estate plans.

It is through their generous spirit that Jim and Ruth have established their legacy at Avila.

Securing Avila's Heritage

An easy way to create a legacy at Avila University is life insurance. You can name Avila as the owner and beneficiary of all or a portion of the benefits of a life insurance policy. Depending on the status of the policy, your gift may entitle you to income tax savings and possibly cut estate taxes while creating a gift that will help Avila and its students. If you have already arranged such a gift or are interested in creating a gift of life insurance, please contact Jessie Fuller Clark, senior director of advancement, at 816-501-3613 or Jessie.fuller@avila.edu.



**EVERY GIFT MATTERS.
PLEASE MAKE YOURS TODAY.**

Students like Joe, Sarah, Tarah, Eden and Aaron are typical of Avila's student body: academically talented, high achieving, hard working, full of potential.



For these Avila students, their education is the best opportunity for them to improve their life prospects and contribute to the overall fiscal health of the state and our nation. However, cuts to state need-based financial aid have significantly affected them. Your support will help them remain in school and graduate with a quality, values-centered education that will serve them well throughout their careers.

Support a deserving student today!

Please use the enclosed envelope or make your donation online:
avila.edu/give